Service Date: May 21, 1992

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER Of The Application Of THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY'S Unreflected Gas Cost Account Balance as of August 31, 1989, and Its Gas Tracking Proposal for the Period September 1, 1989 to August 31, 1990 and IMR Differential Recovery.

UTILITY DIVISION DOCKET NO. 89.12.53 DOCKET NO. 89.12.54 FINAL ORDER NO. 5454a

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 18, 1989, the Montana Power Company (MPC) filed its annual gas tracking application, which was denominated Docket No. 89.12.53. The filing seeks approval of deferred gas costs, as well as a gas cost for purposes of computing the base cost of gas for the ensuing period. In addition to the annual tracker, MPC filed testimony and exhibits in Docket No. 89.12.54. It seeks to recover balances which have accrued because of the difference between sales made at the Interruptible Market Retention (IMR) rate and interruptible industrial gas rate.

2. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued and no protests nor requests for hearing were received.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Applicant is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.
- 2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

ORDER

1. Rates approved on an interim basis are hereby made permanent.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 11th day of May, 1992 by a 4 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

	DANNY OBERG, Chairman
	WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Vice Chairman
	BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner
	TED C. MACY, Commissioner
ATTEST:	
Ann Peck Commission Secre	 etary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. <u>See</u> 38.2.4806, ARM.